TALES FROM THE

DC DARK MULTIVERSE 1

DARK NIGHTS METAL

SNYDER • LANZING • KELLY • MOSTERT • SCOTT • RAPMUND • FAJARDO JR.

TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE

DARK NIGHTS METAL

SCOTT SNYDER, JACKSON LANZING & COLLIN KELLY
STORY

JACKSON LANZING & COLLIN KELLY
WRITERS

KARL MOSTERT
PENCILS

TREVOR SCOTT & NORM RAPMUND
INKS

ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
COLORS

ANDWORLD DESIGN
LETTERS

DAVID MARQUEZ & ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ
COVER

SUPERMAN CREATED BY **JERRY SIEGEL** AND **JOE SHUSTER.**
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH **THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.**

DC FUTURE STATE

THE NEXT BATMAN

HUNTED BY THE MAGISTRATE!

Written by Academy Award winner JOHN RIDLEY
Art by LAURA BRAGA

#3 includes **OUTSIDERS** and **ARKHAM KNIGHTS** bonus stories
#4 includes **BATGIRLS** and **GOTHAM CITY SIRENS** bonus stories

64 PAGES

THE ORIGINAL BATMAN MEETS THE NEXT BATMAN!

Written by
MARIKO TAMAKI
Art by
DAN MORA

#3 includes a **GRIFTERS** bonus story
#4 includes a **RED HOOD** bonus story

48 PAGES

THE DARK KNIGHT MUST SAVE THE MAN OF STEEL FROM A POWERED-UP PROFESSOR PYG!

Written by
GENE LUEN YANG
Art by
BEN OLIVER
and SCOTT McDANIEL

DISCOVER THE DESTINY OF THE **DC UNIVERSE!**
FEBRUARY

#DCFutureState

™ & © DC

AT HUMANITY'S BEGINNING, THERE WERE THREE TRIBES.

FEROCIOUS WAS THE TRIBE OF THE WOLF, WHO FOUGHT FOR THE PACK.

RIGHTEOUS WAS THE TRIBE OF THE BEAR, WHO STOOD SENTINEL AGAINST EVIL.

NOBLE WAS THE TRIBE OF THE BIRD. THEY WERE QUEENS AND KINGS, FOREVER TO RULE.

UNTIL THE RECKONING. UNTIL THE FOURTH TRIBE.

THE TRIBE OF THE BAT.

BIRTHED FROM BATMAN'S OWN DEATH AT THE HANDS OF DARKSEID.

CORRUPTED BY A FORCE FROM BEYOND THE MULTIVERSE.

AND FORGED INTO A TRAP FOR THE VERY MAN WHO CREATED IT.

A TRAP THAT TRANSFORMED BATMAN INTO A GATEWAY FOR A GOD OF DARKNESS.

A BEING SO POWERFUL IT CANNOT BE ESCAPED OR DEFEATED BY ANY LIVING BEING. EVEN ME.

I AM TEMPUS FUGINAUT.

I AM THE ONE WHO STANDS AT THE BRINK, EVER STRIDING THE LINE BETWEEN THE LIGHT AND THE DARK MULTIVERSE. I AM THE BANE OF CHAOS, ALWAYS SEARCHING THE DARK FOR A SINGLE SPARK OF LIGHT.

BUT I HAVE ONLY FOUND DEATH.

AND NOW I HAVE REACHED THE END OF THE STORY.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE STANDS AGAINST THE BAT GOD BARBATOS, CLAD IN ARMOR FORGED FROM ELEMENT X.

IN THE LIGHT, THIS IS A MOMENT OF TRIUMPH.

BUT IN THE DARK MULTIVERSE, THE ARMOR IS CORRUPTED, JUST AS THE TRIBE OF THE BAT WAS BEFORE IT. AND LIKE THE LEAGUE...THE WORLD BURNS IN DRAGONFIRE.

BARBATOS REACHES FROM BEYOND MY GRASP, TETHERED TO THE TRAGEDY-SOAKED MAN BRUCE WAYNE.

AND HE DRAGS ALL OF EXISTENCE INTO CHAOS. INTO THE DARK BEYOND THE DARK.

AND I AM LEFT ONLY TO WATCH AS THE STORY EATS ITSELF ALIVE.

AS THEY ARE DRAGGED INTO NOTHING.

NOT JUST THIS EARTH. ALL THE EARTHS. ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE, WORLDS DIE SCREAMING AS ONE BY ONE BARBATOS'S HORRIBLE CONSUMPTION BEGINS.

THOSE FEW LAST SURVIVORS KNOW IT AS THE DEATHWAVE. IT IS THE LAST SWIFT AND TERRIBLE GASP OF EXISTENCE. AND IT IS FLEETING.

ALL WILL BE CONSUMED EXCEPT BARBATOS. I KNOW IT IS INEVITABLE. A COSMIC CERTAINTY.

AND YET...

...MY EYES ARE DRAWN TO THE ONE WHO STILL HOPES.

NEW CRIME CITY.
EARTH-7.

HE IS THE LAST MONITOR.

LIKE ME, HE STANDS ASTRIDE MULTIVERSAL BARRIERS--BUT HE IS NOT IMMUNE TO THEM AS I AM. STRIPPED OF ETERNITY, HE HAS ONLY ONE RECOURSE.

RUN.

WE ARE KINDRED IN ONE OTHER WAY.

HE HAS SOUGHT TO STAND AGAINST THE DARK. HE HAS TRAVELED FROM WORLD TO WORLD, VOWING TO HOLD THE DEATHWAVE BACK.

AND LIKE ME...

FAWCETT CITY.
EARTH-5.

NEO-GOTHAM.
EARTH-12.

...THE LAST MONITOR HAS FAILED.

AND WORLDS HAVE DIED.

MONUMENT VALLEY.
EARTH-10.

HOW DOES HE CONTINUE TO HOPE?

DEEP SPACE.
EARTH-77.

WHY DOES HE NOT SIMPLY STAND...AND LET THE DEATHWAVE REUNITE HIM WITH OBLIVION?

HERE AT THE END OF EVERYTHING...

CAPITAL OF THE TIGER EMPIRE.
EARTH-51.

...WHAT IS THERE LEFT TO SAVE?

WHAT IS THE FINAL STORY?

This is the last chapter of the last book **anyone** will ever write.

After two years of running and 52 universes of failure, the Deathwave's cycle of destruction is complete. My actions changed **nothing**.

The only person I kept alive...

...was myself.

Only this place remains.

The incursion point. The center of the storm.

My home.

Earth-0.

Haunted by everything that made me. A world where Batman stands only for failure.

A world of

METAL.

My name, back when I had one...

...was Duke Thomas.

I was the final sidekick of the Batman.

When he took me under his wing, Bruce told me it was because he saw **potential** in me.

I thought it was because he felt guilty for allowing **the Joker** to destroy my family.

But it was because of my power.

A metahuman power I didn't even know I had until the world ended.

I can see into the past.

A world of **light** and **hope**.

Where good triumphs as a natural law.

The world as it was.

A beautiful lie.

These days, that lie is all I can see without the **power suppressors**. Only good thing that ever came out of Earth-10.

They let me see the world for what it really is.

Evil.

Cruel.

A place of acrid air, where the skull fragments in the burning sand cut at your calloused feet. Where everything that once gave you hope brings only **despair**.

Where all that is left is to hunt...

...or be **hunted**.

WELCOME BACK TO THE FOLD: DUKE THOMAS...

...NOW BOW IN ETERNAL FEAR BEFORE THE DRAGONS OF THE BAT.

BARBATOS,
THE DRAGON OF THE END
THE FINAL FORM OF BRUCE WAYNE

THE HYDRA DIANA
QUEEN OF SNAKES
AND STONE

KRYPTOTHRAX
THE TRUE DOOMSDAY

TYRANT WYRM
DEVOURER OF ATLANTIS

THE DEATH CONSTRUCT
BEWARE HIS POWER,
HAL JORDAN'S BLIGHT

OH GOD. YOU'RE ALL...YOU'RE STILL *IN* THERE...

CLARK. DIANA.

BRUCE.

YES DUKE THIS IS WHAT I WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE

THE FATED VESSEL OF BARBATOS THE DRAGON EMPEROR OF A METAL EARTH

BUT YOU'RE JUST FOOD. CLARK.

...FEAST.

FRACTURE!

SUPERMAN! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! YOU--AARG--YOU CAN FIGHT THIS!

YOU'RE THE STRONGEST PERSON ON THE PLANET--AND THE BEST PART OF YOU IS YOUR SOUL!

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GIVE BIG BLUE A JUMP START.

TRAGIC CHILD. YOU THINK YOU CAN FIGHT THIS.

KRRKLLLT

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO PROPERLY WIELD THAT STOLEN ARMOR.

YOU HAVE STARED INTO THE ABYSS

AND ONLY I AM STARING BACK

WHOOSH

THUNK

OKAY, DUKE.

DEEP BREATH.

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.

IT'S NOT OVER.

BOOM

IT'S *NOT* OVER.

It's not--

CHOMP

But it was.

It took every ounce of my armor's power to withstand Superman's jaws.

My bones were next.

Clark Kent would rend my flesh in horrible chunks, crack my rib cage away, and feast on my heart.

And then I'd be dead, like everything else in this world.

The only thing left would be Barbatos and his dragons.

For that one moment, I let myself feel true despair.

And then I heard him.

Lone warrior of Earth-Metal.

Master of the Parall-Axe, forged from raw ingots of the last power rings.

And the only other person still alive who knows what it's like to be one of Batman's sons.

Dick Grayson.

DUKE.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME BACK.

THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE LEFT, DICK. THE MULTIVERSE IS DEAD.

THEN WHY AREN'T *YOU?*

I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION. WHAT'S WITH THE GUITAR?

MULTIVERSAL FREQUENCY DISRUPTOR. IT'S LIKE A DISTORTION PEDAL FOR REALITY.

THE AXE'S MUSIC WILL BLIND BARBATOS FOR A MINUTE, MAYBE TWO. ONLY WAY TO KEEP THE DRAGONS AT BAY.

BUT HE'LL FIND YOU AGAIN. HIS EYES ARE IN THE STARS. SO YOU BEST DO WHAT YOU DO BEST.

RUN.

Even with the suppressors on, I can't help but see Dick as he once was.

NIGHTWING, YOU JUST KNOCKED OUT A KRYPTONIAN DRAGON WITH A ***POWER CHORD.*** YOU'RE REALLY GONNA TELL ME THERE'S NO HOPE?!

BRUCE WOULD CALL THIS A--

DON'T YOU TALK ABOUT BRUCE.

HE ***CAUSED*** THIS. HE WENT BACK IN TIME AND SET A TRAP EVEN ***HE*** COULDN'T ESCAPE. HELL, HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE DID IT.

BATMAN'S ENTIRE LIFE WAS A JOKE...

...AND WE'RE ALL TRAPPED IN HIS ***PUNCHLINE.***

I follow him for days. This shadow who was once the best of us.

Through the **Gotham Labyrinth**, a twisted place that mocked his every step.

Through **Burned Metropolis**, where hope now hunts the weary.

Through the **Plastic Forest**, where every branch is a **sociopath** and every root has **teeth**.

Through the **Oblivion Bar**, which finally earned its name.

And all the while I wondered if he knew I was there. The old Dick would have. This guy...

...he might not see anything anymore, except his enemies.

I spend nights wondering if he's lost hope entirely.

And then I see where he lives.

The **Justice League's Watchtower**. Broken but not gone, just like us.

And I know there's still hope.

DAMN, GRAYSON. I HAD MONEY ON YOU BEING *DEAD.*

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, KENDRA.

HOW FAR IN THE HOLE ARE YOU THESE DAYS? ANYONE PUT THE ODDS THE OTHER WAY?

FLASH...BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THAT GUY ANYMORE. HARD FACE TO READ.

WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS, I GOT SUPPLIES TO LAST US AT LEAST A MONTH. ANY MORE BAD NEWS?

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO ASK THAT, GRAYSON.

IT'S *EARTH-METAL.*

THERE'S *ALWAYS* MORE BAD NEWS.

GRRRWLLL

HE'S BEEN RESTLESS, HUH?

I THINK HE SMELLS THE END COMING.

AFTER ALL, HE'S STILL TIED TO BARBATOS. IT'S LIKE HE'S BEING CALLED HOME, BEFORE THEY RAZE THE REST.

BUT HE'S STILL HAWKMAN... STILL *CARTER.*

AND WE BELONG TOGETHER.

SO HE STAYS.

SEE? HE'S *JUMPY.* SEEING THINGS. WE DON'T HAVE LONG LEFT, GRAYSON. IT'S ALL FINALLY COMING TO AN END.

SNFF

SNFF

HONESTLY, KENDRA, FAR AS I'M CONCERNED...

...THAT'S THE BEST NEWS I'VE HEARD ALL YEAR.

DAMNABLE, GRAYSON! YOU'RE *STILL ALIVE?* DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH *MONEY* I OWE THE *SKELETON* NOW?

MONEY = NO LONGER AN OBJECT, PARASITE.

I'M NOT A *PARASITE*, YOU *TALKING FORKLIFT!*

I SEE THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED WHILE I WAS GONE, *BOBO.*

INDEED, RICHARD, MY BOY WONDER. THINGS HAVE NOT AT ALL CHANGED.

THIS PLACE IS STILL A DAMNABLE WRECK HAUNTED BY THE GHOSTS OF THE BEST BIPEDS WE EVER KNEW.

PHENOMENON: DEATHWAVE = STILL INCOMING. REALITY PROGNOSIS = TERMINAL.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M STILL UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF RED TORNADO, THE SINGLE *WORST* SYNTHETIC HUMANOID EVER CREATED--AND THAT'S A LIST THAT *INCLUDES* BOZO THE IRON MAN.

OH, AND YOU'RE STILL AS MYOPIC AS EVER. AFTER ALL...

...SOMEONE FOLLOWED YOU *BACK.*

MR. ALLEN, IF YOU'D BE SO KIND.

DESECRATOR.

YOU WHO TREAD BEYOND.

FACE US, DUKE THOMAS.

FACE THOSE YOU ABANDONED.

FLASH!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE FOLLOWED ME, DUKE. YOU'D HAVE LIVED A HELL OF A LOT LONGER ON YOUR OWN.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT *LIVING,* DICK. I CARE ABOUT SAVING THE--

THERE'S NO WORLD TO *SAVE,* DUKE. BRUCE KILLED EVERYTHING. YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. IT'S ALL GONE.

LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE LEAPING INTO THE MULTIVERSE.

"I'M GONNA SAVE THEM ALL, DICK." THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID. I WANTED TO BELIEVE YOU. I STILL DO.

DID YOU SAVE A SINGLE ONE?

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. THE STORY'S OVER. REALITY *LOST.*

BUT *WE* DON'T HAVE TO.

I SAW WHAT THAT AXE CAN DO. YOU HAVE A SPEEDSTER, A CYBORG, WHATEVER HAWKMAN'S BECOME...

WATCH YOUR MOUTH.

Sorry. It's a lot.

SO YOU'RE RIGHT. I COULDN'T SAVE THOSE WORLDS. BUT TOGETHER...

...I THINK WE COULD *SLAY* THE DRAGONS.

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

SLAY THE DRAGONS?! OH, THAT'S ALL? WHY DON'T I GET *DARKSEID* TO CLEAN YOUR BUNK WHILE I'M AT IT?

AFFIRMATIVE. THE ODDS OF DEFEATING ONE OF BARBATOS'S DRAGONS LET ALONE ALL OF THEM ARE 476,000,000--

STOP.

OH NO, IT'S THE *NIGHTWING VOICE.*

FLASH, LET THE KID GO.

HAWKMAN CAN SMELL THE END. IT'S COMING FAST.

NOT LIKE WE'VE GOT ANYTHING ELSE TO DO.

SO YOU WANNA KILL THE DRAGONS, DUKE? THEN I'M LISTENING.

...HOW?

IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED IN STAYING ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE DEATHWAVE, IT'S ***THIS.***

YOU DON'T NEED TO DESTROY AN ENTIRE WORLD. YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO AIM TO TAKE IT OUT IN ONE SHOT.

BARBATOS USED ***BATMAN.*** THROUGH HIM, HE GOT TO THE METALS. AND THEN THROUGH THEM, HE GOT EVERY-THING.

HE WENT AFTER THE SOURCE.

SO WE DO THE SAME.

THIS PLACE ISN'T JUST A MAUSOLEUM, AND IT'S ALSO NOT JUST YOUR HIDEOUT.

IT'S A RECORD OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S VICTORIES AND DEFEATS. IT'S THE WHOLE STORY.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HAD WEAKNESSES. SO DO THE DRAGONS.

SO WE ***LEARN*** THEM. AND WE ***USE*** THEM.

WE HIT THEM ONCE. ***EXACTLY*** WHERE IT HURTS.

SO EVEN IF THE DEATHWAVE COMES, WE'LL MAKE SURE ***GOOD*** MAKES ONE LAST STAND.

IF THERE'S A SINGLE MEMORY LEFT, IT'LL BE OF ***YOU.*** AND YOU WON'T BE A BUNCH OF HOLLOW SURVIVORS LIVING IN THE CORPSE OF THE OLD WORLD...

...YOU'LL BE THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE.*

I...

...THANK YOU, DUKE. IT'S EASY TO FORGET IN THIS PLACE.

BUT BE WARNED, KID. IF WE'RE GONNA FIGHT DRAGONS...

"...WE'LL NEED A DRAGON OF OUR OWN."

YOU REALLY ARE A WASTE.

"JOKER DRAGON"...

PUH-LEEZE!

BARBATOS HAD SO MUCH HOPE FOR YOU. SO MUCH *POTENTIAL.*

BUT YOU NEVER LIVED UP TO *US*, DID YOU? GOOD THING YOU'RE *MINE* NOW. MY PRESENT. MY REWARD.

AFTER ALL, EVERY BATMAN *NEEDS* A JOKER. AND YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECT... EXCEPT FOR ONE *IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEM...*

YOU'RE JUST!

NOT!

FUNNY!

GHK

I'M THE *BATMAN WHO LAUGHS* AND YOU'VE BARELY GOTTEN A *CHUCKLE* OUT OF ME.

BOO HOO. I GUESS YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER TROPHY KEPT BY ME, IN THIS MOST SACRED PLACE.

DESIGNED BY A SANE BRUCE WAYNE, BUT BUILT BY A *BETTER ONE.*

MY THRONE. MY CITADEL. MY...

...HA OF JUSTICE!

HA HA HA

HA JUSTICE

AH, HELM OF FATE, IS THAT A FLICKER OF HOPE? I LOVE THAT KIND OF PREDICTABILITY IN AN ALARM SYSTEM.

I WONDER WHICH RELICS HAVE FINALLY DECIDED TO DIE?

I THINK THIS CALLS FOR MY *LOVELY ASSISTANT!*

ZATANNA, WOULD YOU LEND ME A *HAND?!*

OLLEH, SEIDRIB...

...S'TEL GNIRB UOY NWOD OT HTRAE!

CARTER, MY WINGS! I'M--*WE'RE FALLING!*

FLASH, I NEED A PICKUP! WE'RE COMING DOWN *FAST!*

OS YRROS, HSALF EHT DEEPS TIMIL SI YLTICIRTS DECROFNE.

CHIMP--OOF--GO *NOW!*

FLAH EPA, FLAH TOBOR LLA LEVORG!

ONLY MAGIC COULD MAKE ME BOW...BEFORE A *MONSTER* LIKE YOU...

HEE HEEHEE-HAHAHA!

IT'S NOT EVEN MY BIRTHDAY, BUT YOU'VE ALL GIVEN ME SUCH A *PRESENT!*

THE HAWKS I ALWAYS KNEW WOULD COME. AFTER ALL, THEY'RE RAPTORS AND I'M SUCH *DELICIOUS* BAIT.

AND FLASH... WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE OF THE SPEEDSTERS HE IS, BUT HE'S *BECOME* ALMOST AS BAD AS THE DEATHWAVE ITSELF. POOR GUY--HE'S A RUNNER-UP EVEN NOW!

WHAT DO THEY CALL YOU, THE *MAROON MECHA-MONKEY?!* HONESTLY, YOU'RE LIKE A WALKING MAD LIBS.

I'M ADDING YOU TO MY COLLECTION. YOU'RE WONDERFUL.

BUT *DUKE THOMAS?!*

I HAD LITERALLY *FORGOTTEN* YOU *EXISTED.*

THIS IS AN *HONEST DELIGHT.*

YEAH?

THEN DIE WITH A *SMILE.*

KRAK

HEE HEE HEE.

KEEP LAUGHING, SNAKE. BUT LISTEN CLOSELY, 'CAUSE YOU HAVE ***THREE*** OPTIONS.

WHICH IS A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN YOU GAVE MY PARENTS.

ONE. TRY TO EAT ME-- ***THEY'LL*** KILL YOU.

TWO. FLY AWAY-- ***BARBATOS*** WILL KILL YOU.

THREE. FLY WITH US. TAKE ***US*** TO BARBATOS'S MOUNTAIN. MOST LIKELY, WE STILL ALL DIE. BUT IF WE'RE BOTH VERY LUCKY...

...WE'LL MURDER GOD FIRST.

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE.

SO WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME HOW THAT'S A JOKE?

CHK

OH, YOU DON'T GET IT?

BARBATOS CAST ME OUT. HEE. AND THE ONE WHO LAUGHS...HEEE HEE...

...HE SAID I WASN'T FUNNY. BUT NOW... I'M THE ONE LAUGHING...

...THERE YOU ARE.

...AND THEY ***GET THE AXE!***

HAHAHAHAHAHA

They say a good song will last forever.

But I'm at the end of the world and I can't remember a **single one.**

As the **final Justice League** takes to the sky, the eye of Barbatos falls on us. The mountain approaches--and with it, his dragons.

All I can feel is the horrible melody that plays in this place. The **anti-music of Barbatos.** The beat of disaster. The chords of chaos.

And the sound of **thunder.** In other words...

...metal.

GREEN LANTERN'S SPIRIT LIVES STILL.

I CAN SAVE HIM.

HAL. HEAR ME.

THE BEAST BURNS FROM YOUR SOUL. YOU ARE THE SPARK.

GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

LET US BOTH BE SAVED.

WARNING! DESIGNATE: FLASH = OBLITERATED!

BUT THE OLD BOY TOOK THE DEATH CONSTRUCT WITH HIM. IT'S *OUR* TURN, YOU HUNK OF JUNK!

IT IS YOUR TURN ONLY TO *DIE.*

DON'T LISTEN TO THE ANTI-MUSIC, CARTER! JUST KEEP UP THE FIGHT AND SEND THIS FISH BACK TO THE SEA!

KRAAH

WHAM

REEL US IN!

WE HAVE TO BE CLOSE IF THIS IS GOING TO WORK!

LASSO OF TRUTH = ACTIVATED!

DO YOU FEEL IT, DIANA? CAN YOU FINALLY SEE THE *TRUTH* OF WHAT YOU'VE BECOME?

BECAUSE I CAN FINALLY SEE THE TRUTH OF US! TORNADO AND I, WE'RE NOT *TWO LOST BEINGS...*

...BUT *ONE SOUL...*

...MADE OF METAL.

Do it, friend. *Detonate.*

KA-KRAKOW

HAH! DUKE, YOU WERE RIGHT! WE'VE GOT TWO DRAGONS DOWN!

THEN YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO. WE'LL REMEMBER YOUR BRAVERY, HAWKGIRL.

PLEASE. IT WON'T BE MY FIRST TIME DYING FOR A CAUSE.

HONESTLY, THIS MOVE IS MY SPECIALTY.

I LOVE YOU, CARTER.

I... LOVE YOU... KENDRA...

FOOOOSH

FROM BEGINNING TO END.

...TOGETHER...

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT? THE HAWKS DID IT. WE'RE DOWN TO THE WORLD'S FINEST.

I KNOW YOU MEAN CLARK AND BRUCE, BUT I GOTTA SAY...

YEAH, I KNOW. WE MADE A PRETTY GOOD BAND, YOU AND I...

...BUT IT'S TIME FOR MY SOLO.

GRAYSON. TIME TO DIE.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED, "KRYPTO-THRAX."

SUPERPOWERS ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS THE PERSON WIELDING THEM. CLARK WAS GOOD. YOU'RE JUST A MINDLESS BEAST.

BOOM

BOOM

DEATH! DEATH TO NIGHTWING!

NIGHTWING? GET WITH THE TIMES, MAN.

I'VE GOT A KRYPTONITE PICK.

NOW?

KRAKO

OOM

CALL ME DRAGON-SLAYER!

DICK.

THANK YOU.

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE.

COME NOW TO DIE, DUKE THOMAS.

IT'S ALL YOU ROBINS WERE EVER GOOD FOR

HAHA!

SLASH

I WAS NEVER YOUR ROBIN!

YOUR WORDS HAVE TRUTH! ROBINS WERE MY CHILDREN.

COME ON, ARMOR. ONE LAST RIDE. LET'S GO.

YOU WERE ONLY EVER A TOOL IN MY BELT.

BUT YOU WERE LOYAL TO BRUCE. SO I WILL MAKE YOU ONE OFFER.

QUIT THIS FIGHT. RESONATE WITH ME TO THE MUSIC OF THE END

JOIN ME IN THE DEATHWAVE!

FIGHT ME?! I AM HIS NATURE! HIS UNCHANGEABLE DESTINY!

BRUCE! I *KNOW* YOU'RE STILL IN THERE! FIGHT HIM!

YOUR JOURNEY IS HOPELESS!

YOUR ARMOR IS NOTHING!

YOUR ALLIES ARE DEAD!

AND YET YOU KEEP FIGHTING? YOU KEEP HOPING?

EVEN IN THE FACE OF TOTAL DARKNESS?

AND YOU THINK THAT MAKES YOU RIGHTEOUS?!

HOPE DOES NOT MAKE YOU A HERO, CHILD!

IT MAKES YOU A FOOL!

NO.

IT MAKES ME *BATMAN.*

The teleportation manifolds in my armor strain against the power of Barbatos's anti-music.

NO.

But without the death harmony of his dragons, I can move between the measures.

I can portal inside his skin.

NO!

I can feel the heartbeat at the center of the song.

The man I loved like a father.

The man who powered the end.

NO!

I tear him from that place. I portal from the dragon's cavernous gullet...

...and I end the beat forever.

NOOOOOH

My name was Duke Thomas. And this is the last chapter of my world.

Barbatos. Bruce Wayne. Two names for one being who forced his tortured soul onto all of reality.

Even with him dead, the Deathwave fills the sky. The walls of reality shatter. Unprotected, I'll fall into darkness with everything else.

But I won't be **unprotected**. I will use every piece of my kill. I will use **every** advantage.

I will witness the end clad in the **hide** of a **god**. If one thing remains from this dead multiverse...

SHHRIP

...it will be **hope reclaimed**.

And so, as the Deathwave crests the horizon of this, the **last world**...I do what I have always done.

For one **last** time...

...I run.

IT IS YOU.

OF ALL THE WORLDS I HAVE WATCHED DESTROYED, OF ALL THE HEROES WHO HAVE FALLEN...

...IT IS YOU, DUKE THOMAS, WHO SURVIVES. THE MAN WHO FOUGHT AGAINST ALL ODDS.

THE HERO OF THE DARK MULTIVERSE.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT.

WORLDS LIVED. WORLDS DIED. EVERY-THING ENDED. THE MULTIVERSE IS ASH...

...AND YOU *WATCHED?*

Batman.

The last Monitor.

Duke Thomas.

Signal.

Every **hero** of 52 worlds. Every **villain** of two multiverses.

They're all dead.

But I'm not.

As darkness consumes all...I am **done** running. There is no fear left. Or hope.

There is only the dark, and the monsters it hides.

And me, left to hunt them through the Dark Multiverse.

The Final Knight.

THE END.

DAVE WIELGOSZ
EDITOR

BEN MEARES
ASSISTANT EDITOR

BEN ABERNATHY
GROUP EDITOR

DARRAN ROBINSON PUBLICATION DESIGN

BOB HARRAS SENIOR VP - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, DC COMICS

DANIEL CHERRY III SENIOR VP - GENERAL MANAGER
JIM LEE PUBLISHER & CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
BOBBIE CHASE VP - GLOBAL PUBLISHING INITIATIVES & DIGITAL STRATEGY
DON FALLETTI VP - MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS & WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT
LAWRENCE GANEM VP - TALENT SERVICES
ALISON GILL SENIOR VP - MANUFACTURING & OPERATIONS
HANK KANALZ SENIOR VP - PUBLISHING STRATEGY & SUPPORT SERVICES
DAN MIRON VP - PUBLISHING OPERATIONS
NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP - MANUFACTURING ADMINISTRATION & DESIGN
NANCY SPEARS VP - SALES
JONAH WEILAND VP - MARKETING & CREATIVE SERVICES
MICHELE R. WELLS VP & EXECUTIVE EDITOR, YOUNG READER

TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE: DARK NIGHTS METAL 1. February, 2021. Published by DC Comics, 2900 W. Alameda Avenue, Burbank, CA 91505. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2020 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dccomics.com/go/ratings. DC - a WarnerMedia Company.

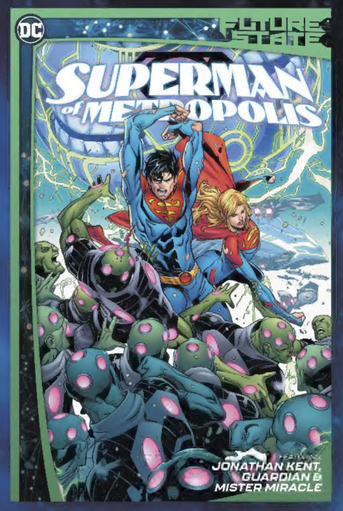
DC FUTURE STATE

SUPERMAN HOUSE OF EL

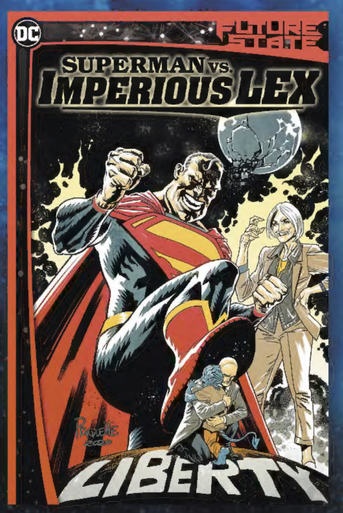
BEING SUPER RUNS IN THE FAMILY!

Written by PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON
Art by SCOTT GODLEWSKI

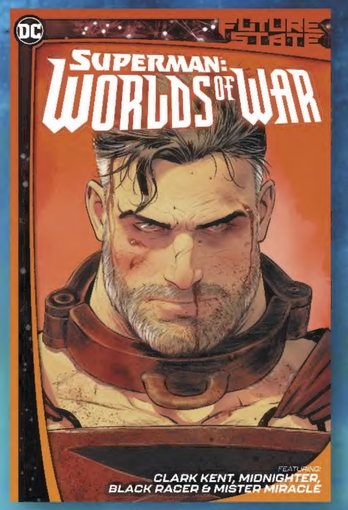
48 PAGES



IF THESE KRYPTONIANS CLASH, NOTHING CAN SAVE THE CITY!
Written by SEAN LEWIS
Art by JOHN TIMMS
Includes GUARDIAN and MISTER MIRACLE bonus stories
48 PAGES



IT'S THE MAIN EVENT: SUPERMAN VERSUS MONGUL!
Written by PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON
Art by MIKEL JANÍN
Includes MIDNIGHTER, BLACK RACER, and MISTER MIRACLE bonus stories
64 PAGES



SUPERMAN AND LOIS AGAINST THE UNIVERSE!
Written by MARK RUSSELL
Art by STEVE PUGH
AND DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!

COULD THE LAST DAYS OF LEXOR BE HERE ALREADY?!
Written by MARK RUSSELL
Art by STEVE PUGH
MARCH 2021

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE UNDER SIEGE!
Written by MARGUERITE BENNETT
Art by MARGUERITE SAUVAGE

DISCOVER THE DESTINY OF THE **DC UNIVERSE!**
FEBRUARY

#DCFutureState

™ & © DC

"You have stared into the abyss.
And only I am staring back."

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

ZONE